

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USBERLIN IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006256

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, GW, UR, ENRG

SUBJECT: PRESS INTEREST IN COCOM ASPECTS OF GERMAN

NUCLEAR POWER TRANSACTION WITH USSR- AEL 1 AND 36; IL 1565

REF: OECD PARIS 00619

1. OISHI FILED ARTICLE IN BALTIMORE SUN JANUARY 9

PRESUMABLY BASED ON FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE AND CITING

WEST GERMAN SOURCES. ARTICLE CITES US AND UK AS HOLDING

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UP APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PROJECT IN COCOM AND DESCRIBES

COCOM AND IAEA SAFEGUARDS REQUIREMENT AND SOVIET UNWILLING-
NESS TO SUBMIT TO IAEA SUPERVISION.

2. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR USE IF
QUESTION CAME UP AT JANUARY 9 BRIEFING BUT NO QUESTION
WAS RAISED:

A. QUESTION: THE BALTIMORE SUN STATES TODAY THAT THE
UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN ARE HOLDING UP APPROVAL OF A
PROPOSED WEST GERMAN-SOVIET PROJECT FOR AN ATOMIC POWER
PLANT IN THE SOVIET UNION. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THIS REPORT?

B. SUGGESTED ANSWER: WEST GERMANY IS INTERESTED IN THE
SALE OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO THE SOVIET UNION TO ADD
TO THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC POWER TO WEST BERLIN AND TO
WEST GERMANY. AS NOTED IN THE ARTICLE, ONE ASPECT INVOLVES

THE QUESTION OF SAFEGUARDS TO BE APPLIED TO NUCLEAR POWER
REACTORS UNDER INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND
COCOM ARRANGEMENTS. THIS MATTER IS STILL UNDER REVIEW IN
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

C. CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND: THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF
THE FRG-GERMAN PROJECT HAVE APPEARED IN THE TRADE PRESS.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT DISCUSSIONS BY THE SOVIETS WITH THE
GDR AND POLAND ON TRANSIT RIGHTS ARE STILL PROCEEDING.
IT IS TRUE THAT THE U.S. AND THE U.K. ARE RESERVING
THEIR POSITION IN COCOM BECAUSE OF THE COCOM REQUIREMENT
THAT SALES OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS TO COMMUNIST COUN-
TRIES BE SUBJECT TO IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON THE HANDLING OF
THE FUEL. PRESENT U.S. POLICY DOES NOT PERMIT US TO
APPROVE THE GERMAN CASE IF THE SOVIETS REFUSE IAEA
SAFEGUARDS. THE AEC IS COORDINATING A POLICY REVIEW
OF THE BROAD QUESTION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS
TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS POLICY
CAN BE MODIFIED IN THE GERMAN CASE. KISSINGER

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